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22 JAN 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Comments on Ethnic Composition of
the Population of Sumatra and Java

1. In response to your request of 20 January, I am transmitting herewith six copies of GRR's Comments on Ethnic Composition of the Population of Sumatra and Java, comprising a very brief text with attached tables.

2. A major problem in the production of sociological intelligence on Indonesia is the lack of reliable population data, stemming from the fact that there has been no systematic census of the area since 1930. In general terms other evidence confirms that there have been no major shifts in the proportionate size of major ethnic groups since that time. Recent reports of IRA/State confirm this view. Total population figures for Sumatra and Java are based on estimates of the Indonesian Government released in connection with preparations for the 1955 national elections.

3. Sources consulted in preparation of the attached paper include: Foreign Service Despatches from Djakarta and Medan; selected reports issued by IRA/State; miscellaneous documents including ethnic maps and FDD translations; and various textbooks in the fields of geography and anthropology.

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Deputy Assistant Director
Research and Reports

Enclosure:

Comments on Ethnic Composition
of the Population of Sumatra
and Java (6 copies)

Distribution:

Orig. and 1 - Addressee

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